

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus are disclosed for harvesting portions of an animal carcass, most preferably for harvesting chicken paws from a chicken carcass which is determined to be of edible quality. The chicken paws and the remainder of the carcass are separated at a point prior to inspection of the carcass, and are transported toward harvesting stations along separate processing lines. By correlating the shackles on which the feet and the carcass are supported on the respective processing lines, the feet are positively matched to the carcass to ensure that the feet will be harvested only if the carcass is determined to be of edible quality.

1. A method for harvesting portions of an animal carcass, comprising the steps of: separating the portions of the carcass at a point prior to inspection of the carcass; and transporting the portions of the carcass toward harvesting stations along separate processing lines.